

# Rural District of Hiraethog

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## ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 1960

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*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE HIRAETHOG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL*

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Health Report for the year 1960.

The Public Health Inspector and I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Council, for the assistance we have received during the year. We also thank the Officials and Members of the staff for their ready assistance at all times.

Yours faithfully,

M. JONES ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

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The Chairmen of the Council during the year were as follows :

January—May, 1960 : Councillor R. D. Roberts.

June—December, 1960 : Councillor R. A. Evans.

## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

Area of the district ... ..	93,097 acres.
Registrar General's estimated population (mid-1960) ... ..	5,000
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	1,620
Rateable Value (1-4-60) ... ..	£43,600
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£168

The estimated population for 1960 was 5,000 compared with 5,010 in 1959, a decrease of 10.

## DEATHS :

Comparability Factor ... .. 0.93

	England and Wales		
	1960	1959	1960
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) ...	11.5	9.58	11.6
Corrected death rate (per 1,000 population) ...	—	8.72	10.79
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 population) ... ..	—	0.19	0.6
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 live and still- births) ... ..	19.7	12.35	36.58
Maternal mortality rate ... ..	0.39	NIL	NIL
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ...	21.7	12.50	12.66
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 legitimate live births) ... ..	—	13.7	12.9
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 illegitimate live births) ... ..	—	NIL	NIL
Neo natal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), first four weeks ... ..	15.6	12.50	NIL
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) ...	—	—	NIL
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births) ... ..	—	—	NIL

The following table shows the number of deaths which occurred during the year. The number of deaths which occurred in 1959 is shown in the first column for comparison :

	1959	1960		
	Total	Total	Males	Females
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ... ..	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other ... ..	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	—	—	—	—
Malignant Diseases—				
Stomach ... ..	4	2	1	1
Lungs, Bronchus ... ..	—	1	1	—
Breast ... ..	1	3	—	3
Uterus ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other ... ..	—	3	—	3
Total Cancer Deaths ... ..	5	9	2	7
Leukaemia ... ..	—	—	—	—
Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	9	9	3	6
Coronary diseases ... ..	4	8	6	2
Hypertension with heart diseases ... ..	1	3	2	1
Other heart diseases ... ..	4	10	3	7
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	3	7	4	3
Influenza ... ..	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	1	3	2	1
Bronchitis ... ..	3	3	1	2
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	1	1	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	1	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	—	—	—
Maternal causes ... ..	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	7	3	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1	—	—	—
All other accidents ... ..	—	2	2	—
Suicide ... ..	—	—	—	—
Homicide ... ..	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES ... ..	48	58	27	31

The deaths occurred in the following age groups :

	Total	Males	Females
Under 1 year .....	1	—	1
1—10 years .....	—	—	—
10—20 years .....	—	—	—
20—30 years .....	—	—	—
30—40 years .....	2	1	1
40—50 years .....	2	1	1
50—60 years .....	5	4	1
60—70 years .....	13	5	8
70—80 years .....	20	10	10
80—90 years .....	12	5	7
90 years and over .....	3	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>58</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>

There were 58 deaths during the year compared with 48 the previous year, giving a death rate of 10.79 compared with 8.72 in 1959. Of these 58 deaths, 48 occurred in persons aged 60 years and over.

There were no deaths from influenza, but 3 were due to pneumonia compared with 1 in 1959.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis nor from any other infectious disease.

Three deaths were due to bronchitis, the same as in the previous year.

Cancer caused 9 deaths compared with 5 in 1959. Of these, 1 was due to cancer of the lung compared with nil in 1959.

Perhaps one should again draw your attention and that of the general public to the connection between lung cancer and smoking. Cigarette smoking has a significant effect in impairing the function of the lungs and there is little doubt that it is one of the chief factors in the cause of lung cancer. The death rate from lung cancer is increasing continually throughout the country and it is significant that there are more smokers amongst lung cancer patients than amongst other patients. The mortality rises with the number of cigarettes smoked.

Deaths from vascular lesions, lesions of the heart and lesions of the circulatory system totalled 37 compared with 21 the previous year. Of these, 8 were due to coronary diseases compared with 4 in 1959.

There were no deaths from motor vehicle accidents but two were due to other accidents. The cause of these deaths was as follows :

1. In a male aged 49 years and was due, amongst other things to post traumatic paraplegia as the result of a tree falling on him.
2. In a male aged 85 years and was due to coronary thrombosis accelerated by fracture of the neck of the femur sustained by a fall in the yard of his home.

Here again I would draw attention to the dangers of accidents in the home. As one gets older there is loss of vision, the brain slows down, and often the balance is disturbed. Everything should be done to ease the

lot of the aged—the stairs and steps should be well lit ; litter should not be left about, and long cords connecting lamps, electric fires, etc., should be avoided. Floors should not be slippery and mats and carpets should be tacked down.

Fires—gas and electric, as well as coal fires—should be well guarded. Electric flexes should be examined periodically and any fraying of the cord should be seen to. Gas taps and piping on stoves and fires should also be seen to at frequent intervals.

The attention of the general public should be drawn to these points.

#### STILL-BIRTHS.

The Still-Birth Rate was 36.58 compared with 12.35 for 1959 and 19.7 for England and Wales. The actual number of still-births was 3.

#### INFANT DEATHS.

There was one infant death during the year giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 12.66 compared with 12.50 in 1959 and 21.7 for England and Wales.

This death was that of a female child aged 4 months and occurred at home. The cause of death was Acute Tracheo Bronchitis and appears to have been unavoidable.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths during the year, giving a Maternal Mortality Rate of NIL, the same as in 1959 and compared with 0.39 for England and Wales.

#### BIRTHS.

Comparability Factor ... .. 1.15

Actual number of births registered : 4 (3 males and 1 female).

Number of births relating to residents : 79 (39 males and 40 females).

There are no maternity hospitals in the area and mothers are admitted to hospitals in other areas for their confinement.

The births were classified as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ... ..	38	39	77
Illegitimate ... ..	1	1	2

  

	England and Wales		
	1960	1959	1960
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population) ...	17.1	15.97	15.8
Corrected birth rate (per 1,000 population) ...	—	18.37	18.17
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births ... ..	—	8.75	2.53



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1960, arranged in the various age groups. The number of cases notified during 1959 is given in the first column for comparison :—

Notifiable Diseases	1959 TOTAL	1960 TOTAL	AT AGES						
			Under 1 year	1—5 years	6—15 years	16—25 years	26—45 years	46—65 years	65 years and over
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	1	8	—	2	2	—	4	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	10	—	2	7	—	1	—	—
Measles ... ..	10	7	—	2	5	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	1	5	—	3	1	—	1	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	25	31	—	9	15	—	7	—	—

The number of cases of infectious diseases (including tuberculosis) notified during 1960 was 31 compared with 25 cases in 1959. Of these, 10 were scarlet fever, the same as in the previous year.

Seven cases of measles were notified compared with 10 cases in 1959.

One case of paratyphoid fever was notified compared with NIL the previous year. This case, in a male aged 35 years, occurred in July. It was diagnosed after the patient had been admitted to hospital and he was then transferred to the Isolation Hospital. He had visited various areas prior to being taken ill, but no cases of paratyphoid fever had been notified from these areas. Extensive investigations were carried out, but the source of infection was not found. No further cases were notified.

Eight cases of dysentery were notified compared with 1 case in 1959. These cases occurred in June and July and were probably associated with cases which occurred in adjoining areas. Five of the cases occurred in two families living near each other. Investigations were carried out but the source of the infection was not found.

Several other cases of diarrhoea occurred about this time, but these were not notified and no bacteriological examinations were carried out. It was only when the dysentery cases were being followed up that these cases came to our notice. Such cases as these may have been dysentery and if the doctor had been called in and the case diagnosed as infectious, perhaps more cases of dysentery would have been notified.

Five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified compared with 1 case of pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary tuberculosis in 1959. Four of these cases were family contacts and were discovered during examination following notification of one case of tuberculosis in the house.

One other case of pulmonary tuberculosis was added to the register, the patient having come to reside in the rural district from another area.

Three cases of tuberculosis were removed from the register, 1 patient having left the area, and two recovered.



The following table shows the number of cases on the tuberculosis register at the beginning and at the end of 1960 :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Number on register on 1st January, 1960 ...	8	3	16	5	32
Number on register on 31st December, 1960	12	2	16	5	35

Two cases of tuberculosis were admitted to hospitals or sanatoria during the year, but no cases were discharged.

The following table shows the number of inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspector regarding infectious diseases :—

Number of visits re infectious diseases ... ..	37
Number of visits re tuberculosis ... ..	11
Number of rooms fumigated and disinfected ... ..	4
Number of cases where bedding was removed for stoving ...	Nil
Number of cases where disinfectant was used ... ..	19

## PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS.

Injections have been given to protect children against diphtheria and whooping cough and the response has been fairly good, but until 100 per cent. of the children are protected cases will occur. Following publicity given to cases and deaths from diphtheria in other areas, a campaign was organised in the County and schools were visited for the purpose of giving diphtheria injections. Parents' consents were obtained and the children were given the injections at school. It appears from these returns that many children had never received any injections at all, but in quite a few cases the parents had forgotten which injections their children had had during infancy and after the injections had been given at school many parents remembered that diphtheria injections had already been given. Most children were also found to have had the booster injections at the ages of 5 and 10 years. It is the duty of all parents to see that their children receive the injections without delay either from their own doctor or at the clinic.

Since April, 1960, babies are being protected against tetanus. This is given at the same time and is included in the same dose as diphtheria and whooping cough prophylactic.

The number immunised against these diseases during the year was as follows :—

#### (a) Against Diphtheria Only—

Over 5 years ... ..	1
Booster Injections ... ..	329

#### (b) Against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Combined—

Under 5 years ... ..	35
Over 5 years ... ..	1

#### (c) Against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus—

Under 5 years ... ..	23
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## SMALLPOX.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year was as follows:

Number of primary vaccinations—

Under 5 years ... ..	50
Over 5 years .. .. .	3
Number of re-vaccinations ... ..	5

## POLIOMYELITIS.

Poliomyelitis vaccination has been given throughout the year and in February, 1960, people up to the age of 40 years were included in the group who could be given vaccination at the clinics. The response in persons up to 26 years of age has been good but is by no means 100%. The attendances in the "26—40" group has been disappointing except in cases where mothers attend the clinic with their children.

Persons aged 40 years and over may attend their own doctor for the injections as this is given under the National Health Service and has not been made the responsibility of the Local Authority.

Evening sessions are arranged for adults, but these were cancelled during the winter months owing to the fact that only a few persons attended and also there was risk of inclement weather. Evening sessions will be resumed again about March—April, 1961.

The number of persons who were vaccinated against this disease during the year was as follows :—

Under 1 year ... ..	6
1— 4 years ... ..	19
5—14 years ... ..	11
15—25 years ... ..	8
26—40 years ... ..	174
	—
Total ... ..	218
	—

Number of booster injections given ... .. 353

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Owing to the fact that the medical staff were concerned with the diphtheria preventive campaign and poliomyelitis vaccination, it was not possible to arrange visits to schools to give B.C.G. vaccinations. It is hoped that it will be possible to arrange for this to be given in the near future to children of 13 years of age and over attending Secondary Schools. As many young people are prone to tuberculosis, it is hoped that all parents will take advantage of this service and give their consent for their children to be vaccinated.

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT.

Following cases of tuberculosis notified in the Llangwm area during the year, the Mass Radiography Unit carried out a survey in the area in April, 1960. The following table shows the number of persons who attended for X-ray examination and details of abnormalities found :

## Analysis in Age Groups

Age Groups	Number examined			Abnormalities found		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Under 15 years ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years ... ..	10	9	19	—	—	—
25—34 years ... ..	10	8	18	—	—	—
35—44 years ... ..	13	14	27	—	1	1
45—59 years ... ..	15	9	24	—	1	1
60 years and over ... ..	4	3	7	—	1	1
Totals ... ..	52	43	95	—	3	3

## Details of abnormalities found

Maligant neoplasm ... ..	2
Non-Malignant neoplasm ... ..	1
Total ... ..	3

## IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE USED IN THE COUNTY.

The ages at which we aim to give the various injections at the County Clinics are as follows :—

## Smallpox Vaccination—

At 2—3 months.

Re-vaccination should be carried out at about 8-9 years.

## Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus)—

At 3, 4 and 5 months with a booster dose at 18 months.

A further booster injection against diphtheria and tetanus is given on entry to school.

Another booster dose against diphtheria is given at the age of 9—10 years.

## Poliomyelitis Vaccination—

At 6 and 7 months with a booster injection after an interval of 6—7 months.

A further injection may be necessary later, but at the moment no arrangements are being made for this.

## B.C.G. Vaccination—

At 13+ years.

Contacts who are examined at the Chest Clinics are given B.C.G. Vaccination as and when necessary.

The following tabulates the number and nature of inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year :—

#### GENERAL SUMMARY :

No. of Visits and Inspections ... ..	3711
No. of Complaints received ... ..	177
No. of Informal Notices served ... ..	196
No. of Statutory Notices served ... ..	38

#### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS :

Visits to Tents, Vans, Sheds ... ..	97
„ „ Factories and Workplaces ... ..	43
„ „ Bakehouses ... ..	11
„ „ Public Conveniences ... ..	6
„ „ Licensed Premises ... ..	53
Visits re Refuse Collection and Disposal ... ..	360
„ „ Rats and Mice ... ..	110
Visits to Schools ... ..	36
„ „ Butchers' Shops ... ..	54
„ „ Other Shops and Stalls ... ..	63
„ „ Sewerage Works ... ..	31
Visits re Water Supply ... ..	463
„ „ Housing Inspections ... ..	501
„ „ Drainage ... ..	768
„ „ Infectious Diseases ... ..	37
„ „ Canteens ... ..	20
Visits re Milk Distributors ... ..	6
„ „ Milk Sampling ... ..	2
Visits to Food Preparing Premises ... ..	165
„ „ Ice Cream Premises ... ..	16
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	578
Visits re Meat Inspection ... ..	291
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>3711</b>

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This was the second year of the working of the Council's re-organised cleansing service and during the period some of the anomalies of the first year's working were eliminated. The collection was extended, especially for roadside collection of farm-houses; in all a total of 43 additional properties were included. The 18 cub. yard fore-and-aft tipper proved itself to be ideally suited for the district, in that one whole day's collection could be carried without resorting to tipping. Three men are engaged full time on the vehicle and it is not out of place in this report to record that the Council are fortunate in having workmen who thoroughly co-operate in the work which is required of them. Refuse collection may be regarded as the "hand-maid" of local government service, and not particularly attractive, whilst additionally, the psychological repetitive nature of the work day after day must be taken into account.

All the refuse is disposed centrally, at Pentrefoelas, and during the year it was found necessary to enlarge the tipping area. In the coming year it is hoped that an area can be re-claimed by adequately levelling out and re-seeding.

Other sections of this report refer to the vast strides made in the district in regard to housing circumstances. The truth of this cannot be more convincingly seen than by the various deposits these days on the refuse dump—old bath tubs, paraffin lamps, wash-boilers, etc.

No. of premises from which refuse is removed ... ..	996
Total cost ... ..	£2,109
Cost per premises collected ... ..	£2/2/6 (approx.)
Mileage per gallon ... ..	12.5

## NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION.

This least enviable of all tasks had to be continued during the year in the villages of Capel Garmon and Llanddoget. The number of properties in the Capel Garmon area are decreasing rapidly and it is hoped that by the end of 1961, night soil collection in this area can be dispensed with, as all houses will either be connected to the sewer, or to septic tanks. Equally, towards the end of 1961 it is hoped that it will be possible to look forward to ceasing collection in Llanddoget pending the execution of sewerage and sewage disposal scheme.

No. of premises collected ... ..	62
Cost of collection ... ..	413
Cost per premises collected ... ..	£6/10/- (approx.)

## FACTORIES.

There are no large factories in the district, but there are 35 which are so classified. Each was inspected and found to be satisfactory.

## INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

FACTORIES : The following indicates work carried out during the year—  
 1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	1	29	16	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	2	1	21	1	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' Premises) ... ..	3	3	6	—	—	3
TOTAL ... ..		33	43	3	—	



## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(13)

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found					No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred				
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	4	1	1	—	—	—	4	
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	7	1	1	—	—	—	7	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	1	1	1	—	—	9	
(a) Insufficient ... ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	11	—	—	—	—	—	11	
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	12	1	—	—	—	—	12	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..		4	3	1	—	—		
TOTAL ... ..								



## OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

Nature of Work	SECTION 110				Section 111	
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
(1)						
Wearing Apparel—						
Making, etc. ....						
Cleaning and Washing ....						
Household Linen ....						
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets ....						
Curtains and Furniture Hangings ....						
Furniture and Upholstery ....						
Electro-plate ....						
File-making ....						
Brass and Brass Articles ....						
Fur Pulling ....						
Iron and Steel Cables and Chains ....						
Iron and Steel Anchors and Grapnels						
Cart Gear ....						
Locks, Latches and Keys ....						
Umbrellas, etc. ....						
Artificial Flowers ....						
Nets, other than Wire Nets ....						
Tents ....						
Sacks ....						
Racquet and Tennis Balls ....						
Paper Bags ....						
The making of boxes or other recep-						
tacles or parts thereof made wholly						
or partially of paper ....						
Brush-making ....						
Pea Picking ....						
Feather Sorting ....						
Carding, etc., of Buttons, etc. ....						
Stuffed Toys ....						
Basket-making ....						
Chocolates and Sweetmeats ....						
Cosaques, Christmas Stockings, etc. ....						
Textile Weaving ....						
Lampshades ....						

NIL

## RODENT CONTROL.

The sharing of a full-time operator between Nant Conway Council and this Council again functioned satisfactorily. Following the resignation of the previous operator a new workman was engaged, additionally a van was purchased between the two authorities so that the necessity for the operator to provide his own private means of transport was eliminated. The system of undertaking annual contracts for rodent destruction again proved to be very satisfactory, and a total income in the region of £220 for the year was received—this amounts roughly to one-half the expenses incurred by the Council in undertaking their rodent control service. It appears that saturation point has now been reached in the making of these contracts, as the rodent operator on a half-time basis could not be expected to give a complete and fair service if the number was increased. The following tables give an indication of the work carried out during the year. Council properties, especially sewage works, sewers and refuse tips, receive constant attention.

Outwardly, rodent control plays only a minor part in the work of the local authority, but in fact it does indeed have an important part to play, not only from the point of view of destruction of such vermin which cause such havoc in foodstuffs in the home and on the farm, but equally it should be emphasised that they are potential carriers of disease via bacteria. Many cases of food poisoning in humans, and foot and mouth disease in cattle, have been proved to come from rodent sources.

	Local Authority	TYPE OF PROPERTY			Total
		Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)	
1. Number of properties in Council's District ... ..	16	965	686	276	1943
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification ... ..	Nil	12	28	7	47
(b) Survey under the Act ... ..	15	373	634	209	1231
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ... ..	6	18	4	6	34
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections ...	100	466	729	291	1586
4. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats—Major ... ..	8	0	43	2	53
(a) Rats (Minor) ... ..	3	4	52	2	61
(b) Mice—Major ... ..	6	13	9	3	31
(b) Mice—Minor ... ..	2	9	5	6	22
5. Number of infested properties treated by the Council ...	15	29	61	6	111
6. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments ...	53	67	531	60	711
7.—Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

## FOOD PREMISES.

As water supply and sewerage schemes are made available to the various villages and hamlets, the application of the necessary legislation as under the Food Hygiene Regulations can be applied more rigorously, and in this respect the standard of food handling in the Council's district has improved considerably over the last decade. Equally as the standard of housing increases within the area, so the interest of the various occupiers inversely increases with regard to the local shop or store, who must attain a higher standard in the handling of food. Again this year, this was reflected in the increased number of complaints of bad food handling; such complaints, when justifiably made, are welcomed and only in this manner will a satisfactory situation ensue with regard to food hygiene. Conditions akin to sterility in food preparation and handling are in themselves of no avail if the counter-hands exercise such contra-hygienic practices as licking forefingers when handling paper in which to wrap food. The public, if they believe something to be wrong, should have the courage of their convictions and refuse the commodity—after all they have to pay for the goods—and why pay for goods which might be contaminated in such a manner as to cause grave discomfort or even more serious results.

The following table relates to the number of food premises in the district, and the inspections carried out during the year :—

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits Paid
Shops ... ..	54	117
Bakehouses ... ..	3	11
Public Houses and Hotels ... ..	12	53
Cafes ... ..	14	165
School Canteens ... ..	12	20
Bed and Breakfast Accommodation ... ..	21	42
Vans and Stalls ... ..	14	6
Slaughterhouses ... ..	2	291
Butchers' Shops ... ..	5	54

In the premises inspected, nine have carried out improvements, four having provided wash-hand basins with hot and cold water. In this respect it is felt that food hygiene lectures should be included in all school curriculums.

## (a) SHOPS.

The shops within the district are small combined shops and dwelling houses being mostly family concerns. There are five butchers' shops and three are registered for the manufacture of sausages.

## (b) BAKEHOUSES.

Three private bakehouses exist in the district and their products far exceed the insipid quality of the multiple bakeries. Each was well maintained and well looked after during the year.

## (c) ICE CREAM.

There is no ice cream manufactured in the district, but there are thirteen registrations for the sale of the pre-packed product. The two samples taken were returned as satisfactory.

## (d) UNSOUND FOOD.

The undermentioned foods were seized during the year as being unfit for human consumption and were disposed of by burying in the Council's refuse tip :—

- 56 lbs. Jersey Potatoes.
- 20 lbs. Peas (pod).
- 2 cwt. carrots.
- 15 ozs. Heinz Vegetable Salad.
- 1 Nestles Full Evaporated Cream.
- 2 pts. Ideal Full Evaporated Cream.
- 1 lb. 3 ozs. Grapefruit.
- 1 lb. 12 ozs. Batchelor's Processed Peas.
- 1 lb. 3 ozs. Hartley's Fresh Garden Peas.
- 2 lb. 3 ozs. Tomatoes (Italian).

## (e) LICENSED PREMISES.

As in the previous year, close liaison was kept with the Police Authorities with regard to these premises. Improvements were asked of the Brewery Companies in three of the larger public houses, and in one, complete internal structural alterations are being carried out, whilst improvements to the kitchen and drainage in the other two will be carried out in the near future. There are a total of thirteen licensed premises in the district. The standard of these premises with regard to their catering and food handling has improved considerably over the last ten years, and it is intended that this improvement shall be continued.

## (f) SCHOOL CANTEENS.

All school canteens were inspected during the year with several revisits ; the handling of food and the cleanliness of staff was found to be very satisfactory, and the canteens themselves kept in a clean condition.

During the period a new school canteen and kitchen was commenced at Eglwysbach. This solves the problem of the poorest of school canteens within the district—a canteen which should in fact have been closed years ago, but possibly the new canteen, with all its modern facilities of electric hot plates, potato peelers and other appliances will help to alleviate the pangs of having to wait so long.

All the school canteens can be stated to be of reasonably good standard and, generally, with certain exceptions, to the standard required by the Food Hygiene Regulations. Where defects do occur, e.g., Llangernyw, it is hoped that the Council's new sewerage scheme will solve outstanding problems.

## (g) MILK.

Two samples were taken during the year and were returned as satisfactory.



Notification was received that the whole of the district would come under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations, and it appears that this will come into operation on the 1st April, 1961. This is a progressive step welcomed by the Council, but at the same time some qualms are expressed as to how some isolated houses in the district were to obtain a satisfactory milk supply. The Ministry, however, assured the Council that in appropriate cases where hardship was encountered suitable steps could be taken to remedy.

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

Two privately-owned slaughter-houses are sited within the district and during the year the necessary report under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food—a synopsis of the report on both slaughterhouses is included. It is obvious that both require considerable alterations and improvements, such that at the time of making the annual report it appears that only the owner of the slaughterhouse at Betws-y-Coed will be willing to undertake the requisite work. The Council have suggested to the Ministry that the date for operating the regulations within their district be as on and from 1st January, 1962. No indication has as yet been received from the Ministry of the acceptance of the report.

### (i) Ty Hir, Pandy Tudur.

This slaughterhouse supplies meat to the area of Pandy Tudur and Llangernyw. It is sited in a small building attached to a T.T. registered farm. Sheep and pigs only are slaughtered—no beasts, due to objections from the Agricultural Authorities as it is a T.T. farm. Consequently the butcher obtains his beef by buying beasts locally and slaughtering at the public slaughterhouse at Abergele—alternatively he buys “off the hook” at Abergele. This butcher has a small lock-up shop at Llangernyw, and the “kill” at the slaughterhouse is small.

The Council do not consider that the above premises can be brought to comply by the recommended date for the following reasons:—

(a) The financial implication involved, together with the small through-put, does not warrant expenditure, especially as sheep and lambs can be bought as and at the same time as beef is now bought and slaughtered at Abergele, and thereafter transported to Pandy Tudur.

(b) The lay-out of the slaughterhouse is unsatisfactory and its shortcomings are briefly as follows:—

- (i) One room only as slaughter-hall, with no separate hanging space.
- (ii) Lairage requires re-constructing, i.e., new floor, increased natural lighting.
- (iii) Absence of drinking troughs, feeding racks and other equipment in lairage, and absence of adequate artificial lighting especially for ante-mortem inspection and cleaning of offal.
- (iv) Means of disposal of waste offal, blood, etc., unsatisfactory, especially as the farm is T.T. At present the offal is boiled as swill, whilst blood is deposited on a manure heap. Obvious difficulties arise from cross infection.

(v) Absence of (a) adequate hot water supply to slaughterhouse ; (b) hide room and separate room to deal with stomach and intestines ; (c) adequate facilities for sterilising cloths, knives and other equipment ; (d) proper welfare facilities (changing of clothes, hand-washing, first-aid box), but with regard to these it is recalled that the dwell-house is close by, and (e) satisfactory place for the detention of diseased meat.

(vi) General repairs to walls, floors, ceilings, windows, etc., required.

**(ii) Coed-y-Celyn, Betws-y-Coed.**

This building is again sited on a smallholding. Whilst belonging to one butcher who has a lock-up shop attached to the buildings, it is also used by two other butchers, one from Llanrwst and the other from Dolwyddelen. There is a " moderate " kill on the premises.

All three butchers retail generally in the surrounding rural areas—not necessarily in the Hiraethog Rural District—i.e., Betws-y-Coed Urban District, Llanrwst Urban District and Nant Conway Rural District. The town of Llanrwst can be stated to have one-quarter to one-third of its meat slaughtered at the above establishment, and Betws-y-Coed around one-half.

The shortcomings of this slaughterhouse are briefly as follows :

- (a) The drainage from the slaughterhouse discharges crude and direct into the River Conway. A new disposal works is required, not only for the slaughterhouse, but also for the water closet and the two nearby houses.
- (b) The private water supply which now serves the slaughterhouse fails during dry summers and water has to be carried, but it is only fair to point out that it is anticipated that the Llyn Conway comprehensive scheme will serve this area within two years. Bacteriological analysis of the present supply proved to be satisfactory.
- (c) The lay-out of the slaughterhouse is unsatisfactory in that
  - (i) The animals must cross the slaughterhall to enter the lairage.
  - (ii) The lairage requires re-conditioning and providing with water, drinking troughs, feeding racks and mangers.
  - (iii) Absence of (a) adequate artificial lighting for ante-mortem inspection ; (b) stunning pen ; (c) adequate natural and artificial lighting in slaughterhall ; (d) adequate lighting and through ventilation in hanging room ; (e) hot water supply and adequate facilities for hand washing and washing of equipment ; (f) satisfactory facilities for use as hide room ; (g) adequate facilities for storage of stomach contents ; (h) adequate manure bay to hold contents of stomachs and intestines ; (i) facilities for disposal of blood, offal and other waste trimmings (these are at present thrown on manure heap which is uncovered, with consequent danger of cross infection) ; (j) adequate place for retention of diseased meat, and (k) adequate place for storage of stomach and intestines.
  - (iv) The premises are in a dilapidated condition generally, both internally and externally, and there is gross disrepair to adjoining buildings, whilst the areas around the slaughterhouse need clearing.



# SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

## Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

(21)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep or Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ..	77	18	Nil	902	19	—
Number inspected ... ..	77	18	Nil	902	19	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcases condemned ... ..	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	16	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... ..	1.3%	—	—	1.8%	—	—
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole carcases condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no trades registered under Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, neither are there any fish frying premises.

## FOOD SAMPLING.

This is carried out under the Food and Drugs Act by the County Council's Chief Inspector. I would like to thank Mr. Thomas H. Evans for permission to include the following table :—

Article	No Taken	Genuine	Not Genuine, or Sub-standard
MILK ... ..	8	8	—
Lard ... ..	1	1	—
Rice ... ..	1	1	—
Jam ... ..	1	1	—
Marmalade ... ..	1	1	—
Beer ... ..	1	1	—
TOTALS ... ..	13	13	—

All the samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

As noted in previous years, more caravans appear to be making their way into the district during the summer months. With the coming into operation of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, this will be probably accelerated, hence it is absolutely essential to maintain close co-operation with the Planning Authority so as to maintain full control and implementation of the new Act. As under the Act, the Council in co-operation with the Planning Authority, will be reviewing all their licences in the coming months, together with the conditions to be imposed in respect of site licences. The present position of Licences issued is as under :

No. of Site Licences issued ... ..	3
No. of Applications for Site Licences under consideration	9

## SCHOOLS.

All schools within the district were examined during the year and certain improvements obtained where required. The Council are particularly concerned with Capel Garmon C.P. School where pressure was brought upon the County Authority to convert the existing pail closets to the water carriage system, utilising the existing septic tank in making the necessary improvement.

The sanitary accommodation at Llanddoget C.P. School requires attention but this must be delayed until the Council's sewerage scheme for the village has been executed.

Generally, the schools within the district reach a satisfactory standard and much improvement has taken place since the adverse report in 1954. One exception with regard to lack of water carriage drainage is Carmel C.P. School, but the position here can be alleviated when a piped supply of water from the Council's Llanddoget Scheme will become available.

There is only one private school within the district—of 120 pupils. The drainage from this school is unsatisfactory and measures will have to be undertaken to seek improvement, especially as the Council have been unable to include the scheme in their plans for the sewerage of the village, viz., Llangernyw.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Water supply has always been the great problem of the district, but over the last decade tremendous progress has been made with local schemes. 1960, however, saw the commencement of a major scheme for the district based on Llyn Conwy, with headworks and trunk mains executed by a Joint Board, comprising of members from the County Council, the Aled Rural District Council, and this Council. The scheme will at first supply the whole of the Hiraethog Rural District and part of Aled Rural District.

In addition to the commencement of the laying of this trunk main, tenders are expected shortly for the laying of the distribution mains, this part of the scheme being the entire responsibility of the Hiraethog Council and valued in the region of £160,000. This scheme will serve numerous farms and dwellings and safeguard an adequate supply of water to the various villages, as each of these village supplies will be fed from the Llyn Conwy trunk main. The advantage of this comprehensive scheme for agricultural properties is not only from the point of view of supplying the farmhouses themselves, but also from that of animal health and possible agricultural prosperity, as the water will undoubtedly be extensively used by the farmers on the fields of their holdings. The Engineers for the whole scheme are Messrs. Howard Humphreys & Sons, London. Additionally the scheme with its unending supply will relieve much of the hardship caused by weeks of fine dry weather. This was experienced during the late spring of this year and considerable difficulty was experienced in supplementing local schemes—in particular Llangernyw and Cerrigydrudion—whilst water had to be carried to the hamlets of Llanddoget and Melincoed. Severe hardship occurred in many outlying farms due to shortage of water.

With regard to the quality of the water in the various villages the accompanying tables show the bacteriological and chemical analysis. Additionally, where the water supply is treated details are given. Generally speaking, where treatment is not given the small schemes show slight fluctuation of quality during wet periods, probably due to surface contamination. The water practically throughout the district has a high pH value, and as such is highly plumbo solvent. Due to this the Council have their own Bye-laws which prohibit the use of lead, etc., in certain parishes.

The number of dwelling houses and population supplied from the Council's mains are as follows :—

Parish	No. of Dwellings supplied direct	Population	No. of Dwellings supplied by Stand Pipe	Population
Eglwysbach ... ..	134	402	—	—
Llanddoget ... ..	—	—	—	—
Llangernyw ... ..	119	357	—	—
Gwytherin ... ..	26	78	—	—
Llanrwst Rural ... ..	110	330	5	17
Tir Ifan ... ..	40	75	—	—
Pentrefoelas ... ..	71	213	—	—
Cerrigydrudion ... ..	183	530	16	40
Llanfihangel G.M. ... ..	37	111	—	—
Llangwm ... ..	49	147	—	—

#### PRIVATE SCHEMES.

Numerous houses and farms have their own private schemes. The latter generally have been executed since the war and have ranked for grant from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sampling and inspection of the sources are periodically made but complete sampling would be impossible. However, where the farm produces milk, the Council is aided by the Ministry of Agriculture, who sample the supply bi-monthly, and as a result close co-operation is maintained with this Authority. Where unsatisfactory samples are obtained from a farm, or other supply, immediate action is taken by inspection of source and headworks to find cause of pollution—should all protection fail, chlorination or filtration is insisted upon.

#### LLANDDOGET SCHEME.

This scheme was commenced during the year and will ultimately supply the village of Llanddoget and the hamlets of Tan Lan and Groesffordd. As part of the Llyn Conwy Scheme it has been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers—Messrs. Howard Humphreys & Sons, London—and is estimated to cost £15,750.

#### GENERAL.

During the year meetings took place with regard to the grouping of the Council's water supplied with other undertakings, but as yet with no definite outcome.

No. of visits and inspections ... ..	463
Samples taken from public supplies ... ..	27
Samples taken from private supplies ... ..	33
Satisfactory samples from public supplies ... ..	20
Unsatisfactory samples from public supplies ... ..	7
New connections to Council's main ... ..	14
Approved domestic connections from private sources ... ..	10

# BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

(25)

Name of Supply and Date Sampled	Plate Count Yeastel. Agar 24 hours at 37 deg. C aerobically per ml.	Probable No. of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37 degrees, C, per 100 ml.	Probable No. of Bact. coli (type 1) per 100 ml.	Remarks
Yspty Ifan ... .. 4/ 7/60	16	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Nebo and Capel Garmon ... 4/ 7/60	48	13	13	Class 4—Unsatisfactory.
Pentrefoelas ... .. 4/ 7/60	7	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Llangernyw ... .. 4/ 7/60	11	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Gwytherin ... .. 4/ 7/60	300	70	70	Class 4—Unsatisfactory.
Nebo and Capel Garmon ... 13/ 7/60	6	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Pandy Tudur ... .. 13/ 7/60	7	0	1	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Gwytherin ... .. 13/ 7/60	300	180	180	Class 4—Unsatisfactory.
Eglwysbach ... .. 13/ 7/60	1	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Nebo and Capel Garmon ... 19/ 7/60	11	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Gwytherin ... .. 19/ 7/60	17	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Llangernyw ... .. 19/ 7/60	7	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Pandy Tudur ... .. 19/ 7/60	9	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Cerrigydrudion ... .. 25/ 7/60	15	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Nebo and Capel Garmon ... 25/ 7/60	6	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Pentrefoelas ... .. 25/ 7/60	22	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Rhydydan ... .. 25/ 7/60	4	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Pandy Tudur ... .. 1/11/60	14	8	8	Class 3—Unsatisfactory for chlorinated water.
Cerrigydrudion ... .. 2/11/60	9	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Dinmael and Maerdy ... .. 2/11/60	6	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Yspty Ifan ... .. 9/11/60	300	50	50	Moderately contaminated.
Pandy Tudur ... .. 9/11/60	15	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Yspty Ifan ... .. 14/11/60	88	13	0	Class 4—Unsatisfactory.
Yspty Ifan ... .. 30/11/60	6	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Pentrefoelas ... .. 30/11/60	11	0	0	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Llangwm ... .. 28/11/60	32	25	0	This sample appeared to con- tain a moderate number of coliform bacilli which did not appear to be of recent excre- tal origin.
Llangwm ... .. 5/12/60	11	0	0	This sample was satisfactory.



In parts per million of water.

Chemical Analysis	Llanfihangel G.M.									
	Pentrefoelas	Melincoed	Ysbyty Ifan	Llangernyw	Gwytherin	Llanfihangel G.M.	Pandy Tudur	Eglwysbach	Cerryndrudion	Nebo and Capel Garmon
Total solid matter in solution ...	60.0	120.0	60.0	100.0	80.0	60.0	120.0	80.0	40.0	40
Nitrogen in Nitrates ...	1.0	1.25	1.0	1.00	1.3	0.38	1.00	0.38	0.2	—
Nitrites ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	13.0	16.0	10.0	18.0	12.0	10.0	10.0	14.0	11.0	—
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F ...	0.27	Nil	0.94	0.24	0.2	1.5	0.24	2.27	—	—
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	Nil	Nil	—	Nil	0.04	—	Nil	0.04	0.02	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.02	Nil	Nil	0.01	0.02	—	Nil	0.15	0.01	0.05
Lead, Copper, Zinc ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Microscopical examination of the sediment ...	Nil	Nil	Minute amount	Nil	Small amount	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Temporary Hardness ...	30.0	70.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	2.5	2.1	15.0	Nil	15.0
Permanent Hardness ...	15.0	35.0	15.0	40.0	Nil	1.0	0.3	Nil	30.0	3.0
pH Value ...	6.6	6.6	6.2	6.8	7.0	8.2	5.5	6.8	6.2	6.6
pH after Calcium Carbonate ...	7.0	6.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alkalinity to Methyl Orange ...	30.0	70.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	—	—	—	—	—
Calcium salts as Ca ...	18.0	42.0	16.0	28.0	12.0	—	—	—	—	—
Magnesium salts as Mg ...	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	—	—	—	—	—
Lead dissolved in 24 hours ...	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.2	1.0	—	—	—	—	—
Action on copper in 24 hours ...	2.2	2.8	2.0	1.6	0.6	—	—	—	—	—
					(In 48 hours)					
					(In 48 hours)					

**SEWERAGE.**

This important aspect of the Council's work progressed favourably during the year, such that after completion of the work in progress and that proposed, the Council will have sewered all the villages and hamlets in their district. Numerous properties have their own private septic tanks, but in some cases a number of properties have joined together for this purpose, e.g., the hamlet of Rhydlydan. The Council have conscientiously tackled this problem over the last decade and as stated all the major issues have now been solved such that it will be dependent on the individual owners to connect their properties and take advantage for the improvement of their dwellings as under the Housing Acts, 1949-54.

The Council have compelled individual owners to connect their properties to the sewer where this is available and a grant of one-half the cost of conversion of the existing closet to the water carriage system is made available under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The following indicates the schemes executed during the year, together with those in course of preparation :—

**Yspyty Ifan.**

This joint scheme with the Nant Conway Rural District Council was brought into practice and 22 houses in the Council's area of the scheme have been or are being connected. The scheme is estimated to cost £10,794.

**Llangernyw.**

The scheme for this village—one of the larger villages of the district—was commenced and practically completed during the year. It will be of tremendous benefit and it is anticipated that many householders will take advantage of Improvement Grants to provide their houses with the requisite amenities. The scheme will require partial pumping of the sewage and is estimated to cost £22,841.

**Capel Garmon.**

Plans are in hand to improve the present outfall works, and also for providing a small scheme for the nine houses in the Mountain View area.

**GENERAL.**

The following are the statistical tables for the year and it is to be noted that the Hill Farming and Housing Act Grants have contributed to the progress :—

No. of Visits and Inspections ... ..	768
No. of Informal Notices ... ..	76
No. of Statutory Notices ... ..	3
No. of Houses where W.C. installed ... ..	36
No. of Houses where bath installed ... ..	26
No. of Houses where lavatory basin installed ... ..	29
No. of Houses where Belfast sinks and waste drainage installed ...	32



## HOUSING.

As in previous years this constituted the major part of the work, being especially concerned with the renovation and improvement of the older type of property as under the improvement grants—either under the Housing Acts and Hill Farming Acts, or, with other inspections concerned with the abatement of general complaints and nuisances. The greater availability of mains water supply and sewerage accelerated the progress, together with the general increased prosperity of the district.

Improvement grants gave added impetus, but applications for Standard Grants were disappointing. Probably these grants appeal more to the Urban terraced type of property as distinct from the type of property in a rural district, where the majority are detached and often isolated. A large proportion of the district is covered by the Hill Farming Acts, and the Council are exceedingly fortunate in this respect, and by maintaining close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, it has been possible to secure that every house which is registered for Hill Farming Grant will ultimately come up to the standard required by the Housing Acts for Discretionary Grant. The figures relating to the Hill Farming Grants will be seen at the end of this section.

The Council still maintain their policy of closing unfit houses where possible, but it has been difficult to carry out this task against the continual accusation of abetting de-population. However, the Council remained firm, convinced that this was their bounden duty, not only to comply with housing legislation, but more important for the protection of health. Gradually the populace is realising that a good standard of housing is a necessity of life, and equally it is pleasing to record that many people in the district tend to believe, erroneously from the legislative point of view, that a house is sub-standard unless it is supplied with a bathroom. Such progressive thinking is commendable and in advance of legislation, but is a step which is inevitable in the law of the country.

Reflecting over ten years, one cannot help comparing the amazing difference of opinion, where previously, occupiers were prepared uncomplainingly to accept houses which had not seen any general repair work or improvement for over 100 to 150 years—these houses in the most being damp, of low headrooms, small windows, slate slabbed floors, large open fireplaces and absence of facilities for the preparation and storage of food, together with complete lack of internal and external drainage, apart from a privy midden. All this in comparison with present feeling is indicated in the previous paragraph.

The advent of electricity, which will within the next two years or so cover the district has considerably helped the change of outlook, but many problems remain to be solved. About 100 houses remain to be cleared to complete the intended programme as submitted to the Ministry under the 1955 report. This report indicated that there were 242 unfit houses in the district and that period of 10 years would be required to clear same—132 have been closed and action is pending in respect of a further 11.

The Council is still hindered in its progress to build new houses due to the high cost of building in an isolated rural district, but work commenced during the year on building a pair of semi-detached houses at Pentrefoelas, and tenders have been accepted for a pair at Capel Garmon and a pair at Llanddoget. In order to qualify for the maximum subsidy, these houses are allocated for the transfer of families living in unfit houses.

As far as the general housing needs in the district are concerned, apart from isolated cases, these are not pressing except in a minority of cases.

No. of farmhouses in the district registered under the Hill Farming Acts ... ..	275
No. houses in the district improved with the aid of Discretionary Grants ... ..	49 (£14,910 paid)
No. of houses in the district improved with the aid of Standard Grants ... ..	6 (£541 paid)

The following statistics were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the year :—

Unfit houses closed under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	24
Unfit houses made fit :—	
After informal action by the Council ... ..	36
After formal notice under the Public Health Acts ... ..	Nil
After formal notice under the Housing Acts ... ..	4

## ELECTRICITY.

Although it is not usual to include electricity statistics in this report, one cannot help feeling that the introduction of electricity on such a wide scale in the district should not go un-recorded, and the following are the figures supplied by M.A.N.W.E.B. indicating progress :—

Number of properties connected : 344 (made up of 185 dwelling houses, 111 farms, and 48 commercial premises).

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### LABORATORY SERVICE.

The Public Health Laboratory is at Conway, and samples of water, milk and ice cream are sent there for bacteriological examination. Other types of bacteriological examinations are carried out there to aid in the diagnosis of illness, e.g., food poisoning, scarlet fever, meningitis, etc.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE.

This service is controlled by the County Medical Officer of Health at Wrexham, but Denbigh, Llanrwst and Llangernyw ambulances are under the jurisdiction of the Ambulance Sub-Station at Colwyn Bay.

The following is given for the information of the Council and the numbers refer to cases conveyed by the various ambulances and the mileage covered during the year :—

Name of Ambulance Station	Denbigh	Ruthin	Llanrwst	Llangernyw	Cerrigydrudion	Totals
Number of cases conveyed ... ..	2,640	2,424 and 450 by Voluntary Ambulance	114	1,986	86	7,780
Total Mileage ... ..	31,264	28,830 and 7,781 by Voluntary Ambulance	3,608	24,830	3,737	100,050
Number of ambulances per station ... ..	1	2	1	1	1	6
Whether manned by voluntary or full-time personnel ... ..	Both	Both	Voluntary	Full-time	Voluntary	

### SITTING CASE CARS — TAXIS.

No. of Journeys ... ..	1,408
No. of Cases ... ..	4,164
Total Mileage ... ..	69,391

### CARE OF THE AGED.

#### Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948.

Two cases were dealt with under this Act.

Further application had to be made under this Act for an extension of the period of detention of an aged person at Rhyddfan Home for

the Aged at Ruthin. Her mental condition deteriorated to such an extent that she was certifiable. She was admitted to the North Wales Counties Mental Hospital at Denbigh where she died in September. The cause of death was senile dementia.

In the second case, a person was brought to notice as being in need of care and attention. She was becoming mentally unbalanced, probably due to the fact that she was neglecting herself. The Health Visitor found a Home Help to go in to clean the house, etc., but owing to the insanitary condition of the house she was unable to stay there for any length of time. The neighbours, too, did all they could to help but found conditions impossible. This person was aged between 75 and 80 years and when everything possible had been tried, it was found that she would have to be moved under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, as she had become very ill. After a month in hospital she was greatly improved and was removed to Rhyddfan, Ruthin, under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. She has settled down there but an application will have to be made to the Court for an extension of the period of detention as she is not capable of looking after herself and might decide to return to her home where her condition would revert to what it was. Relatives were finally contacted and they agreed that the Council had done the right thing.

#### DISTRICT NURSES.

Nurse Munro, Cae Llwyd, Cerrig-y-Drudion. Tel. No. Cerrigy-drudion 248.

Nurse Murphy, Glascoed, Llangernyw, Abergele. Tel. No. Llangernyw 207.

Nurse Llewelyn, Maesteg, Station Road, Llanrwst. Tel. No. Llanrwst 140.

Nurse Ellwood, Libbylyn, Penrhyd Hall, Tal-y-Cafn. Tel. No. Tynygroes 310.

Nurse Llewelyn and Nurse Ellwood also cover Llanrwst Urban District and part of Aled Rural District.

#### DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The number of cases of domestic helps employed during the year was 3.

The number of cases where domestic help was provided was as follows:

Tuberculosis ... ..	1
Chronic Sick and Aged ... ..	2

The above figures refer to the clinic attendances for various areas and not for children from Hiraethog Rural District only.

The Clinics at Llangernyw and Cerrig-y-Drudion were closed at the end of January, 1960, owing to poor attendances. The General Practitioners at Cerrig-y-Drudion hold immunisation clinics in the Surgery and the attendances at these clinics are excellent.

#### TRANSPORT TO CLINICS.

The number taking advantage of transport to clinics is shown in the following figures :—

	No. of mothers	No. of babies
From Eglwysbach to Glan Conway Clinic ... ..	43	53
From Capel Garmon and Nebo to Llanrwst Clinic ...	48	78
From surrounding areas to Llanfyllan Clinic ... ..	101	174

These figures were supplied by the County Medical Officer.

**DENTAL CLINICS.**

This clinic is held as and when necessary at the Clinic, Watling Street, Llanrwst, and cases are referred from the Infant Welfare Clinic and from General Practitioners. The following figures show the number of cases examined and treated during the year and include patients from the Rural District :—

Number examined ... ..	4
Number requiring treatment ... ..	4
Number treated ... ..	4
Number completed treatment ... ..	—

**NURSING SERVICES.**

The following are the names and addresses of the nursing staff serving the district :—

**Health Visitors.**

Mrs. M. R. Roberts, Avondale, Chapel Street, Corwen.

Mrs. E. Morris (née Foulkes), The Clinic, Watling Street, Llanrwst.  
Tel. No. Llanrwst 345.

Mrs. Morris also covers the Llanrwst Urban District, and Mrs. Roberts relieves the District Nurse at Cerrig-y-Drudion on off-duty periods .

**TUBERCULOSIS HEALTH VISITOR.**

Miss M. Thomas, 21 Severn Road, Colwyn Bay.

Miss Thomas also covers the Western half of the County.

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.**

This service is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health at Wrexham.

**ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICS.**

These Clinics are held as follows :

Name of Clinic	Clinic held	Surgeons attend
Colwyn Bay ... ..	Alternate Thursdays.	Every 3 months.
Bala ... ..	2nd and 4th Tuesday after- noons each month.	Every 3 months.
Llanrwst ... ..	2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings each month.	Every 3 months.

**VENERAL DISEASES CLINICS.**

These Clinics are held at hospitals in Llandudno, Wrexham, Chester, Bangor and St. Asaph.

**SCHOOL OPHTHALMIC CLINICS.**

These Clinics are held as follows :—

At Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay, on Wednesdays (fortnightly) by appointment.

At The Clinic, Watling Street, Llanrwst, on Wednesdays (monthly) by appointment.



## CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS.

Clinics are held at Bod Difyr, Cefn Road, Colwyn Bay, or Wednesdays and Fridays and at the Gatefield Clinic, Kings Mills Road, Wrexham, on Thursdays and by appointment on Fridays.

## FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS.

Clinics are held at Bod Difyr, Cefn Road, Colwyn Bay, on Wednesdays 2-30 and 3-30 p.m., and at 1 Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, on Thursdays, between 2 and 4-30 p.m.

## CHEST CLINICS.

Patients attend the Chest Clinics held weekly at Llandudno, Rhyl and Denbigh Hospitals, or by appointment at the Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham.

## INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Mothers take their babies to one of the under-mentioned clinics which serve the area and the attendances at these Clinics during the year were as follows :—

	Under 1 year		1-5 years		Total Visits	Clinic Held
	1st Visits	Re-visits	1-2 years	2-5 years		
Llanrwst ... ..	130	842	385	612	1969	Every Tuesday afternoon
Llangernyw ... ..	—	2	—	1	3	Last Thursday afternoon in each month.
Cerrigydrudion ...	1	1	—	—	2	First Friday morning in each month.
*Llansannan ... ..	18	91	68	153	330	Second Thursday afternoon in each month.
*Glan Conway ...	26	153	140	167	485	Alternate Monday afternoon in each month.

\* These Clinics are in the Aled Rural District but some babies from the Hiraethog Rural District attend them.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.  
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